

## Message Text

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21/51

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

PM-03 SP-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 OMB-01

DODE-00 EUR-10 ACDA-10 AID-10 DRC-01 /075 W

----- 078486

O R 131528Z APR 74

FM AMEBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8495

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISICIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4124

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y / F O R M R N O N L Y , : I C E 4 9 6 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS ET US

SUBJ: PRIMIN'S REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: ADDIS 4110 PARA 5

1. POL COUNSELOR AND I HAD NINETY MINUTE MEETING MORNING APRIL 13 WITH PRIMIN, FONMIN, AND KIFLE WODAJO, NOW MIN IN PRIFMIN'S OFFICE. ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY FRIENDLY. SESSION HELD IN PRIMIN'S RESIDENCE "SO THAT PRESS WILL NOT GET IMPRESSION WE ARE COOKING SOMETHING SPECIAL". THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES SUBJECTS COVERED; DETAILS FOLLOW IN SEPTELS.

2. WITH REQUEST THAT THEIR REMARKS BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY, PRIMIN/FONMIN/KIFLE MADE STRONG AND ELOQUENT PRESENTATION URGING EMERGENCY AND IMMEDIATE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN VAST QUANTITIES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ETHIOPIA. IN ADDITION TO ARGUMENTS ALREADY FAMILIAR

TO THE DEPARTMENT, THEY ADDUCED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL  
CONSIDERATIONS:

A. THEY FEAR THAT SOMALIA'S LEADERS WILL CONCLUDE THAT  
NEAR FUTURE IS BEST TIME TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA  
BECAUSE OF ITS CURRENT POLITICAL FLUX.

B. IT IS OMINOUS THAT SOMALIA HAS ALREADY STEPED UP  
ITS PROBES AND PROVOCATIONS, INCLUDING SURVEILLANCE  
FLIGHTS AS FAR INTO ETHIOPIA AS KEY MILITARY BASE OF  
JIJIGGA.

C. SOVIETS ARE PROMOTING RADICAL MOVEMENTS IN  
ETHIOPIA AND RESPOND TO IEG REQUESTS FOR CURBS ON ARMS  
DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA BE DEMANDING THAT ETHIOPIA  
ABANDON ITS "PRO-AMERICAN" POLICIES AND, INTER ALIA,  
PERMIT LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET/CONSULAR OFFICES IN  
ETHIOPIA.

D. PRIMIN BELIEVES THAT IT IS VERY MUCH IN US  
BILATERAL AND REGIONAL INTEREST THAT HIS CABINET  
SUCCEED IN ITS EFFORTS TO MANAGE ETHIOPIA'S CURRENT  
TRANSITION IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO PREVENT BREAKUP  
OF EMPIRE AND ACCESSION OF RADICAL REGIME TO POWER.  
IF SOVIET-SUPPORTED GSDR CONVINCED THAT ETHIOPIA'S  
MILITARY IMPOTENCE AND ITS DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES  
COMBINE INTO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESSFUL  
SOMALI MILITARY INITIATIVE NOW, THE INITIAL SUCCESS  
OF SUCH AN ATTACK WOULD TOPPLE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.  
ITS SUCCESSOR WOULD BE A FAR MORE RADICAL ONE WHICH  
WOULD BLAME US FOR ETHIOPIA'S DEFEAT AND WOULD  
PROBABLY PURUSE A PRO-SOVIET POLICY.

E. THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW WHO BACKS ETHIOPIA AND WHO  
BACKS SOMALIA. MANY COUNTRIES WILL DRAW CONCLUSIONS  
DAMAGING TO US IF SOMALIA ATTACKS ETHIOPIA AND TOPPLES  
GOVERNEMNT. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE,  
DEEPLY AFFECT POLITICAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUDAN, AS  
FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID HAS AS MUCH AS SAID RECENTLY TO DR  
MENASSIE.

3. PRIMIN SAID HE HAD DECICDED SEND KIFLE BACK TO  
WASHINTON ABOUT APRIL 16 TO PRESENT CASE TO SECSTATE  
ALONG ABOVE LINES AND PREPARE FOR FONMIN VISIT IN  
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MID-MAY. ADDITIONAL EXPERTS WILL RECEDE FONMIN IN  
INTERIM IF THIS USEFUL. FOCUS WOULD BE ON NEED  
FOR VAST INCREASE IN DELIVERIES OF DEFENSIVE MATERIEL  
TO BE PROCURED ON GRANT OR CREDIT BASIS WITH MINIMUM  
BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSING. EMERGENCY SHORT CUTS ESSENTIAL  
AS ETHIOPIA'S MILITARY POSTURE CONTINUES TO ERODE. FOR  
EXAMPLE, SAMS NOW BEING INSTALLED IN SOMALIA. ETHIOPIA'S

LONG CRITICAL MILITARY SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED TO POINT WHERE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF DOMESTIC TRANSITION STRESSES, RESTORATION OF SOME MILITARY DETERRENCE IS "MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH."

4. IN RESPONDING I REFERRED TO VISIT HERE THIS WEEK OF AMB KIRK FROM MOGADISCIO AND OPINION VIEW HE HAD EXPRESSED TO US THAT SOMALI NOT LIKELY TO CONSIDER ATTACKING ETHIOPIA IN PRESENT PERIOD UNLESS SIGNS OF ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN BECOME FAR MORE DRAMATIC THAN IS CURRENTLY THE CASE. I ALSO MENTIONED AMB KIRK'S VIEW THAT SOMALI ARMY SUFFERS FROM VERY SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES IN MAINTENANCE AND LOGISITICAL SUPPORT. WHILE EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING FOR SEVERAL ARGUMENTS ADVANCED, I POINTED OUT THAT FONMIN IN PARTICULAR WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR FROM PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH GREAT DIFFICULTIES USG HAD BEEN HAVING IN PROVIDING LEVEL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED FOR FY 74. I MENTIONED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD ADVISED ME WHEN DISCUSSING FONMIN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON NOT REPEAT NOT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT USG WILL BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AT LEVELS IN EXCESS OF WHAT IT IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING. I SAID THAT AS KIFLE AND FONMIN WOULD BE WELCOME, HOWEVER, AND THAT I FELT SURE SECSTATE WOULD RECEIVE PRIMIN'S VIEWS ON SITUATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS WITH INTEREST.

5. I THEN RAISED SUBJECTS OF TENNECO FIVE NOW HELD BY ELF INSURGENTS AND OF RECENT ATTACK ON US FACILITY IN ASMARA, ELICITING FROM PRIMIN ASSURANCES OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S READINESS AND DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN DIRECTION I URGED. I ALSO SPOKE OF DROUGHT RELIEF, PORT CONGESTION PROBLEM. SEPTELS FOLLOW ON THESE

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SUBJECTS AND ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUEST.  
COMMENT: I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS PRESENTATION WAS A SINCERE ONE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE IS CERTAINLY A GREAT DISPARITY BETWEEN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF SOMALIA'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND THAT WHICH ETHIOPIA POSSESSES IN THE OGADEN.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 APR 1974  
**Decapton Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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